

**COMMITTEE ON BORDER RELATIONS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
MAYORS BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010, 4:00 PM.

The Committee on Border Relations met at the above place and date.

**AGENDA**

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 24, 2009
3. Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan
4. Discussion and action on the security situation in Ciudad Juarez
5. Discussion and action to recommend El Paso as a pilot site to demonstrate new technology for expediting cross border mobility
6. Discussion and action on request from Mike Breitingner of the Downtown Management District that the Border Relations Committee requests that the City Council passes a Resolution urging the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to schedule a hearing on Alan Bersin's nomination as CBP Commissioner as soon as possible
7. Bridge Management Report:
  - a. Traffic and Revenue Report
  - b. Update on Stanton and Santa Fe Port of Entry Improvement Projects
  - c. Pedestrian Toll Free Days
8. Report on the Texas Border Coalition conference proceedings and conference calls
9. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD: At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Committee will allow an open comment period not to exceed thirty minutes, to receive public comment on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken. Speakers in the audience will be allowed a maximum of three minutes and must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.
10. Adjournment.

**Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Evelina Ortega called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Those present were:

**Thomas Fullerton, Jr. – D-3**

**Sergio Chiu – D-4**

**Oscar Baeza – D-5**

**Angelica Quintana – D-8**

**Pete Ocegueda – D-7 (at large member)**

**ABSENT:**

**Irasema Coronado – D-2**

**Ivan Ramirez – D-6**

**Laird Carmichael – D-7**

**Angel F. Quintana – D-5 (at large member)**

**Jorge Salom – Mayor's office (at large member)**

**Christopher Olivares – D-2 (at large member)**

**Lilia Ruiz – D-3 (at large member)**

**Miguel Escoto – D-8 (at large member)**

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Said Larbi-Cherif – International Bridges  
Jane Shang – Deputy City Manager  
Sylvia Firth – Mayor's Office/Legal  
Jose Quinonez – EPIA  
Ray Mendoza – International Bridges  
Jim Creek – NM Border Authority  
Isabel Mullens – CBP  
Mike Breitingner – Central Business Association  
Salvador Payan – Congressman Reyes' office  
Myriam Cruz – Municipal de Juarez

### **Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 24, 2009**

Motion made by Mr. Fullerton, seconded by Mr. Baeza and carried to approve the minutes of November 24, 2009

**AYES:** Ms. Ortega, Mr. Chiu, Mr. Ocegueda

**NAYS:** None

**Ms. Quintana not present for vote**

### **Item 3: Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan**

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that a master study for all ports of entry will be done by TxDOT beginning early Spring 2010 and completed by late 2010 or early 2011.

### **Item 4: Discussion and Action on the security situation in Ciudad Juarez**

Mr. Oscar Baeza proposed that the CBR suggest to City Council to request the assistance of the UN in the situation in Juarez. Discussion followed regarding how the UN can get involved, what their role would be, and how to go about submitting a request. Discussion also covered the Crimestoppers program currently in place in Juarez and the success rate. Ms. Ortega directed Mr. Baeza to follow up with Congressman Reyes' office and research what can be done to get the UN involved. The item will be placed on the next agenda and the board will make a recommendation at that time. Sylvia Firth recommended that an item supporting the on-going efforts to improve the security situation in Ciudad Juarez may be included in the City's Federal Legislative Agenda.

Discussion continued regarding the security at the bridges along with the wait times and what is currently being done to speed up the process and what training CBP officers receive.

### **Item 5: Discussion and Action to recommend El Paso as a pilot site to demonstrate new technology for expediting cross border mobility.**

Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Coronado. Mr. Larbi-Cherif commented on the freight shuttle study and the SENTRI card enrollment fairs as potential pilot projects. Discussion followed with Mr. Larbi-

Cherif and Ms. Mullens regarding the technologies being used currently and new technologies that are being explored to help speed up the crossing process. Ms. Firth reiterated the City's readiness to sponsor pilot studies to explore technologies that CBP may be interested in. Discussion continued regarding pedestrian and vehicle crossing technology, infrastructure problems, CBP officer training, Sentri enrollment cost and extension of the pedestrian Sentri program to BOTA and Zaragoza.

Ms. Ortega asked that Item #5 be placed on the next agenda.

**Item 6: Discussion and action on request from Mike Breitingger of the Downtown Management District that the Border Relations Committee request that the City Council passes a resolution urging the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to schedule a hearing on Alan Bersin's nomination as CBP commissioner as soon as possible.**

Mr. Mike Breitingger explained his request to the commission.

Motion was made by Mr. Ocegueda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Quintanilla for the CBR to recommend that the Mayor send a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee for the confirmation of the nomination of Alan Bersin as CBP commissioner.

**AYES:** Ms. Ortega, Mr. Chiu, Mr. Fullerton

**NAYS:** None

Mr. Oscar Baeza declined to be involved in the proceedings as he is opposed to having Mr. Bersin as CBP commissioner.

**Item 7: Bridge Management report.**

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif gave a report on the southbound bridge traffic, toll revenue and parking meter revenue as well as an update on the status of the Stanton and Paso Del Norte improvement projects, an update on the pedestrian toll free days. Ms. Myriam Cruz explained the Crimestoppers tip program in Juarez and discussion regarding the program followed.

**Item 8: Report on the Texas Border Coalition conference proceedings and conference calls.**

Ms. Sylvia Firth presented a report on the TBC conference and explained how it can be a resource for the Committee. Discussion followed.

**Item 9: Open comment Period**

Mr. Salvador Payan commented on Ms. Mullens from CBP and how it is wonderful to work with her and that she does a great job getting problems resolved quickly.

Motion made by Mr. Baeza, seconded by Mr. Ocegueda and carried to adjourn the meeting.

**AYES:** Ms. Ortega, Mr. Chiu, Mr. Fullerton, Ms. Quintanilla

**NAYS:** None

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.

**Approved as to form:**

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**Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E., Board Secretary**